

MEDIEVAL NORTHALLERTON

In the closing years of the 12th century the Bishop of Durham converted the castle to a palace. It was embellished and refurbished in 1226, 1292 and 1309, and probably served frequently as accommodation for important travellers on the Great North Road.

Northallerton was burned by the Scots in 1318, and there is an account from around the same period of rebels against the king raiding the bishop's palace. The palace was fortified with a pele tower, and seems to have continued in use into the 16th century. All Saints church had been given to the Prior and monks of Durham in the 12th century, but as Northallerton prospered more religious houses sprang up in the town.

A house of white friars (Carmelites) was founded in 1356, and stood on the site of the present Friarage Hospital. The Austin Friars also held property in the town, where the Fleece Inn now stands. About a mile south of the town stood a medieval hospital dedicated to St James, and a 'maison dieu' (almshouse) was founded for 13 poor people in the later years of the 15th century.

